

West Fargo Fire Department



2015 Annual Report



Message from the Fire Chief

I am proud to present to you the West Fargo Fire Department's Annual Report for 2015. We are committed to a safe, economically secure, and healthy community. The department operates as an independent fire company; it is governed by the members and receives revenue through contracts for fire protection from the City of West Fargo, City of North River, City of Relies Acres as well as Reed, Raymond and Mapleton Townships. Currently, we are rostered for forty-five volunteer firefighters and four full time positions.

Our members operate two separate stations and provide strictly fire and rescue services for our district. When you call 9-1-1 in West Fargo, you get a half million dollar truck with four members who might be a mechanic, a city sanitation worker, a small business owner, and a chef who are taking the time away from work or family life to respond to your emergency. The dynamic and cost savings the combination department brings to the city is awe inspiring.

In May of 2015, I began my service with the West Fargo Fire Department. Chief Schatschnider left some very big shoes to fill. I began to realize this after just a couple of weeks on the job. Every single person I came into contact with mentioned how "Chief Roy" had been a staple in the City of West Fargo for the better part of three decades. I can only hope that I can live up to the stellar reputation he left.



This year was the busiest year for the department since its incorporation in 1940. We shifted personnel and an additional fire engine to the Southside Station at Eagle Run and took delivery of a brand new pumper for the Central Fire Station. In total, we ran 379 calls for service.

Our full time staff and volunteers have also had a busy year conducting fire inspections, fire safety education, and public relation visits to schools, block parties and neighborhood gatherings. The most attended event was the West Fargo Exchange Club's National Night Out. The department provided tours of our trucks, take home fire prevention materials, and had a live fire demonstration.

In closing, I invite any resident of the City of West Fargo to contact me directly with any concerns or questions regarding the fire department

Thanks for taking the time to read our report.

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Fire Suppression

In 2015, the West Fargo Fire Department responded to a diverse compliment of calls for service. The department provides fire suppression to the Cities of West Fargo, Riley's Acres, and North River, as well as Barnes, Mapleton, Reed, and Raymond Townships.

Through each of our calls for service, we endeavored to provide timely service in the most efficient and safe methods possible. Overall, we ran **379 calls for service**, 334 occurred in the city limits, and 45 occurred in the rural area the department covers. When the calls for service are dissected, it paints a picture of fire safety in our city

First, the overall volume is increasing, and has been for the past five years. ***The five year median increase was 63% from 2010 to 2015.***

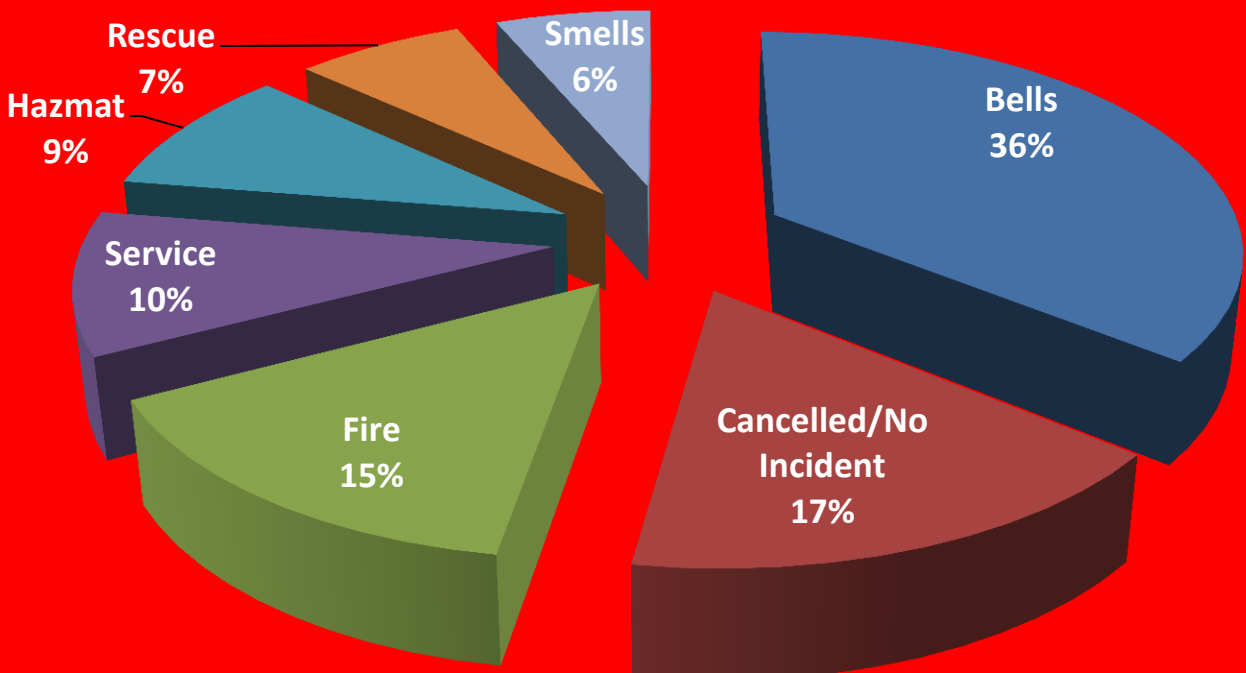
A total of 56 fire incidents occurred, 18 of which were private dwelling fires. Most were small fires; however we did experience several major fires. ***No fire deaths and no fire related injures were reported in 2015.***

Pre incident value \$4,782,500

Post incident losses \$781,930

Value of saved \$4,000,570

West Fargo Fire Dept 2015 Calls for Service



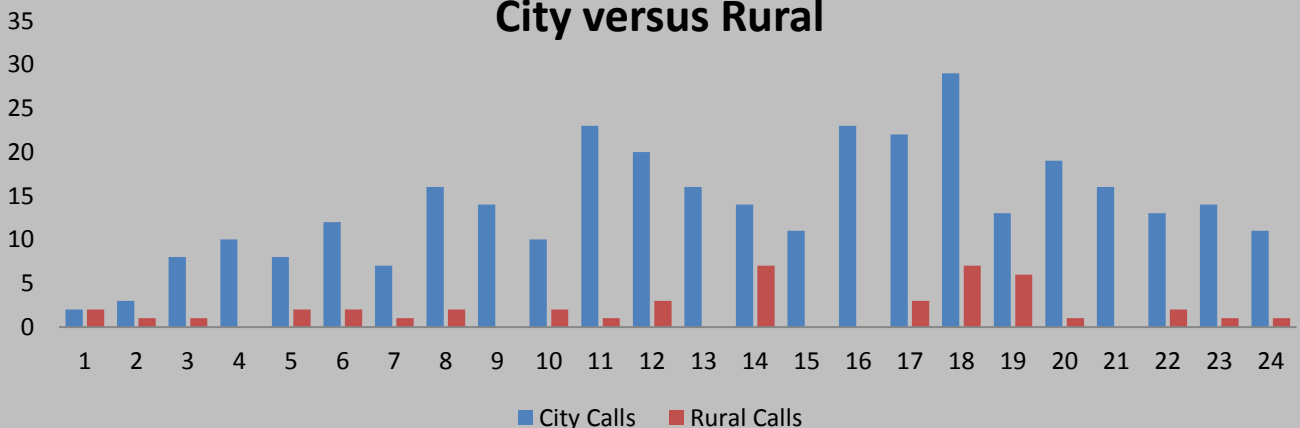
Fire Suppression

- A total of **26 rescue** incidents occurred, with three major incidents.
- A total of **35 hazardous materials** incidents occurred. The largest percentage was natural gas leaks due to human error.
- A total of **136 calls came in as “bells”** ie: alarm systems sounding. Most just required a reset of the alarm system.
- A total of **24 calls came in a smoke or odor investigations, or “smells”**. A majority of these calls required the removal of smoke through ventilation of the building. Both “smells” and “bells” calls are treated as probable fires, and as such, receive a full alarm response of two engines, the rescue, and the ladder truck.
- Lastly, **63 calls were cancelled or no incident was found on arrival**. The response to these calls depended on the reporting caller’s description of the event.

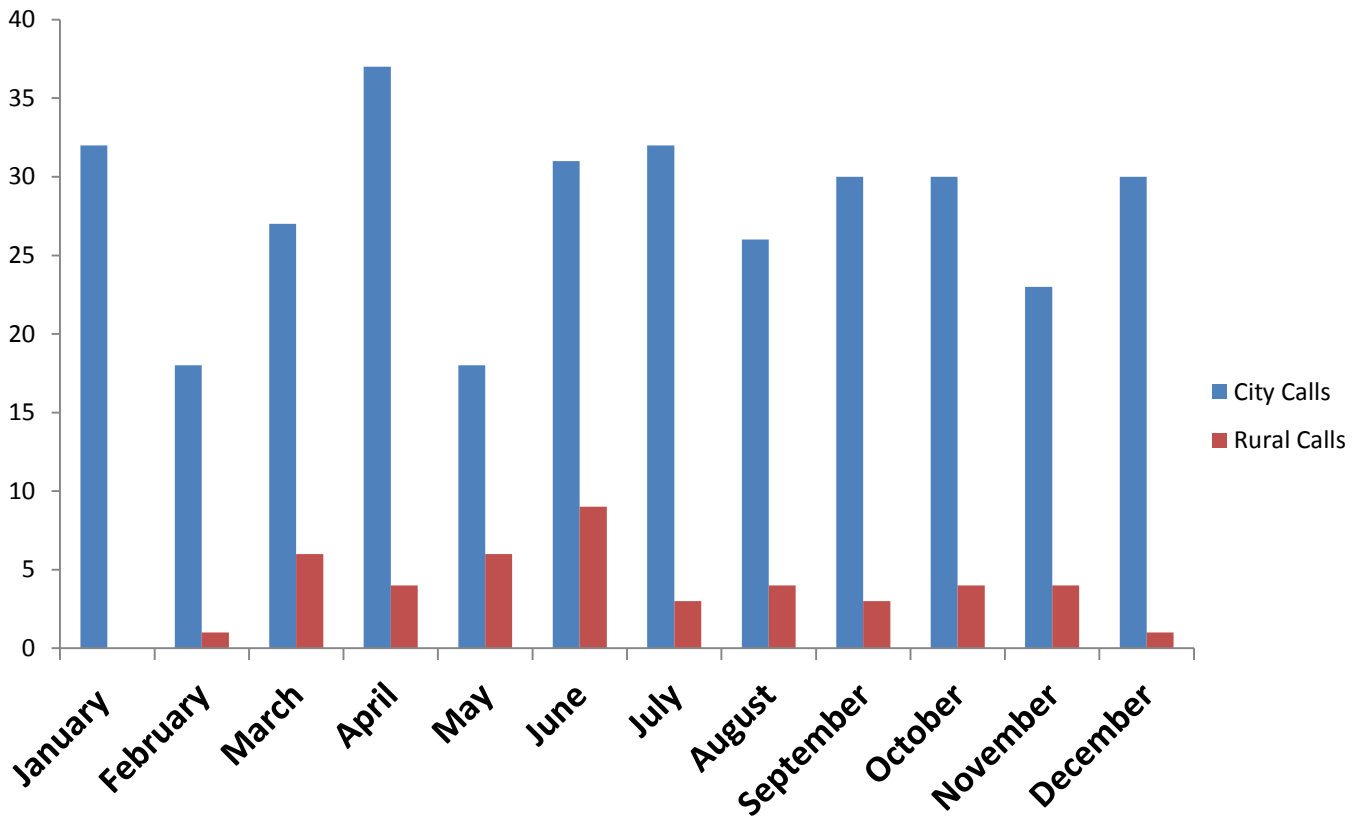
Day of the Week Combined



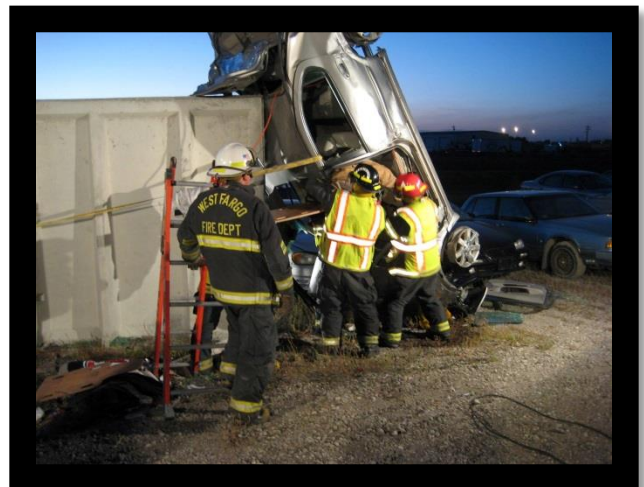
Calls by Hour City versus Rural



Fire Suppression

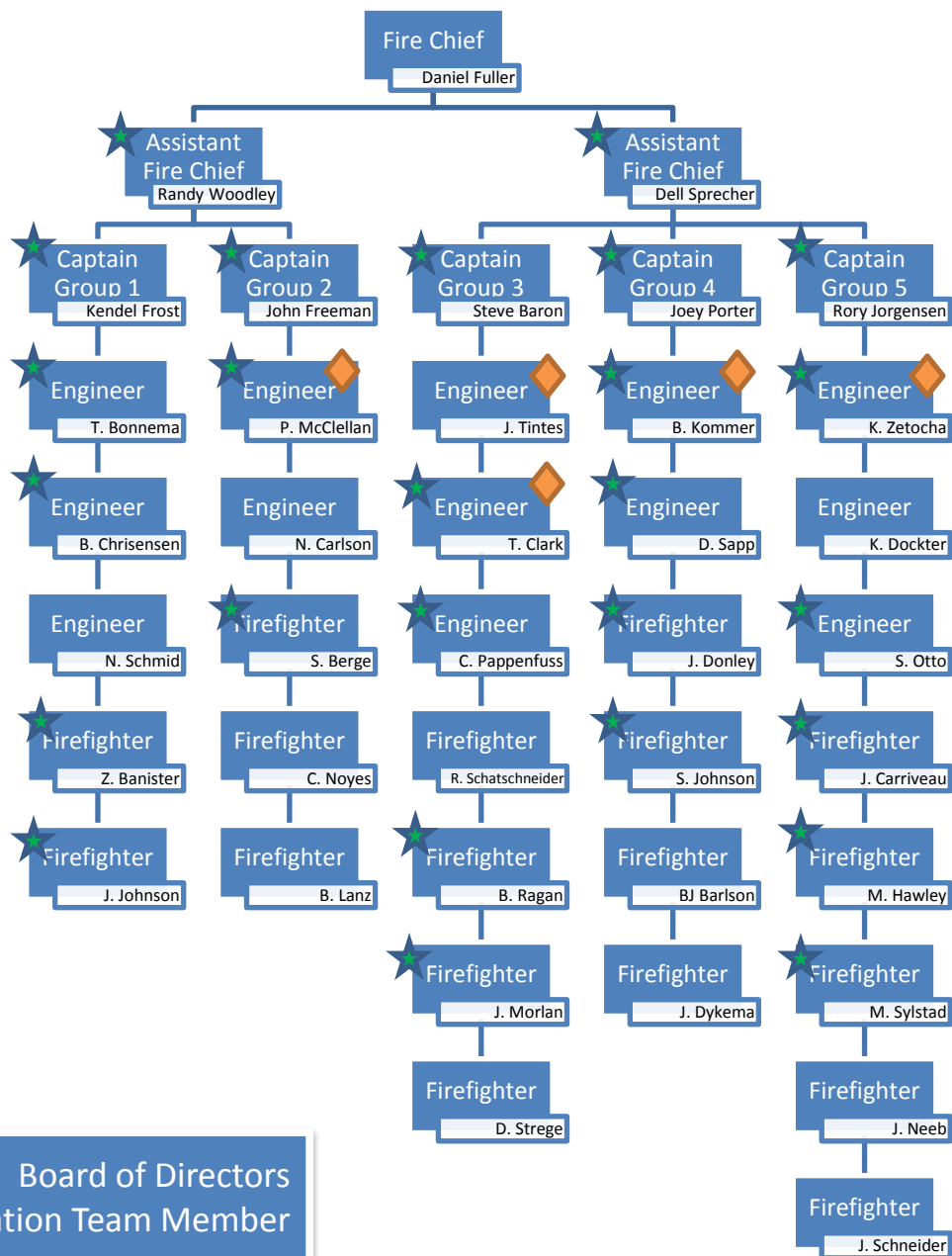


In summation, the department responds to *more “in city” calls than rural, at a 8.4 to 1 ratio*. All calls are split fairly evenly amongst the days of the week over the course of the year. The most common hour of the day for a fire emergency in the city is 6pm. Interestingly, **67% of all calls occur during the 8am to 8pm time segment** of the day, with the remaining **33% occurring in the remaining 12 hours of the day**; from 9pm to 7am.



Personnel

At the West Fargo Fire Department, our most important resource is our personnel. For **each member on the roster**, the department has invested around **\$4,250** in personal protective gear and just **under \$780 a year in training costs per member**. In return, our members are mandated to respond to **25% of all calls on a quarterly basis**. **In 2015, the minimum amount of calls any one of our members responded to was 95, while the department average was 151 calls per member over the year.**



Personnel



In 2015, several personnel made the very tough decision to leave the department. Regardless of the reason, we thank them for the time they gave the department and the difference they made in the community while they were here.

James Sprauge	7 Years of Service
Mike Baukol	4 Years of Service
Mark Paler	2 Years of Service
Nick Warvra	6 Months of Service
Brian Moore	4 Years of Service
Bryce Pageler	5 Months of Service

The department added a class of probationary firefighters in April of 2015. These members have been responding to calls, attending training, and will be completing their ***Firefighter 1 Pro-Board/North Dakota Firefighters Association Certifications*** in the spring of 2016. We welcome them to the team.

Dale Strege	Jayson Schneider
BJ Carlson	Chad Noyes
Jacob Dykema	Brad Lanz
John Neeb	

Rolling Stock Report

The department operates four engines, two tankers, a heavy rescue, a ladder, two brush trucks, and three administrative vehicles. Apparatus is rotated on a set schedule, to allow for budgeting of replacements over a more stable time period versus having to budget for a single truck over two years. ***The current fleet of the department is in very good repair and serviceability.*** Funds have been invested in having an outside service company annually inspect our apparatus, including pump testing, changing of primer oil, ladder testing, and regular diesel engine maintenance.



Truck	Year	Type	Miles	Hours
7701	2016	Ford Utility, Chief	46	
7752	2015	Chevy 1500 P/U, Inspector	5475	
7753	2011	Chevy 1500 P/U, Inspector	38297	
7751	2013	Chevy 2500 Brush	37503	
7750	2014	Chevy 2500 Brush	17396	
7720	2015	Spartan/Toyne Pumper	1832	70
7721	2008	Spartan/Crimson Pumper	12225	1011
7722	1996	Spartan/General Pumper	13481	1858
7723	1984	E-One Pumper	14222	1184
7731	1990	Volvo/White 1,500 Tanker	15459	170
7732	2006	Volvo/Midwest 3,000 Tanker	2132	67
7740	2004	Spartan/Marion Rescue	6328	811
7760	2012	Sutphen 95ft Tower Ladder	3433	266

Training

Firefighters of the West Fargo Fire Department are mandated to attend bi-monthly firefighter training all year long, for a **total of 96 hours per member**. That totals an aggregate of over **4,300 total firefighter training hours** for the entire department. A select number of **firefighters are assigned to the Extrication Team**, who specializes in vehicle extrication and train another 4 hours a month, representing another **1,200 hours a year**.



In late February each year, the North Dakota Firefighters Association (NFDA) hosts a Winter Fire School in Minot. **Ten of our firefighters attended the three day event in 2015**; receiving instruction is specialized rescue techniques such as grain bin rescue and stabilization of tractor trailers, as well as basic through advanced firefighting techniques. In total, each member who attended received eight hours of instruction and hands on training each day.



For the first time ever, the NDFA established a Fall Fire School, which was hosted in Fargo/West Fargo. **Seven of our firefighters attended the three day event**, which mirrored the Winter Fire School in Minot.



Training



Three members of the department attended the ***National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD***; Chief Dan Fuller, Captain Joey Porter, and Engineer Chris Papenfuss. Chief Fuller completed his first year Executive Fire Officer Program, a Master's level college program for executive officers. Captain Porter completed the Presentation of Effective Public Education class, while Engineer Papenfuss completed the Command and Control of Incident Operations class.

Assistant Fire Chief Dell Sprecher attended the ***International Fire Chiefs Association's (IAFC) Volunteer and Combination Officer's Section*** annual symposium in Clearwater FL. AC Sprecher received top notch training at the three day symposium, widely considered to be one of the leading training events for fire officers in the United States

Event	Location	Member Hours
Monthly Firefighter Training	West Fargo, ND	4,300
Monthly Extrication Training	West Fargo, ND	1,200
Winter Fire School	Minot, ND	360
Fall Fire School	Fargo/West Fargo, ND	252
National Fire Academy	Emmitsburg, MD	264
IAFC Symposium	Clearwater, FL	36
TOTAL 2015 Training Hours		6,412 total hours

Fire Prevention

During the summer and fall of 2015, members attended an **average of five block parties a month**, giving residents and visitors of our city the chance to view our equipment up-close. Fire safety messages were relayed as well, to all age groups.

Annually, the United States Fire Administration sets Fire Prevention Week. This week is set aside to publicize one of the worst fire disasters in the United States; The Great Chicago Fire which occurred on October 9th, 1871. The Saturday through Sunday period in which the 9th falls into is proclaimed Fire Prevention Week, as it has every year since 1922. **This year, your West Fargo Firefighters set out to get the fire prevention message to every home in the city.** Most of this delivery occurred through the school system; when a child is educated about fire safety, they bring the message home and remind their parents and neighbors. A total of **6,997 West Fargo schoolchildren** were reached in 2015. Depending on their age group, they were either visited at school or took a field trip to see the fire station in person.

In addition to the school visits, firefighters also provided specialized fire recognition and workplace **fire extinguishment training** to several area businesses, including **Caterpillar Remanufacturing, FM Transport, Monsanto, and Moog Inc.** The **West Fargo Community High School** seniors also participated in a workplace fire safety seminar hosted the Central Fire Station.



Major Incidents

January 14th, 2015 – Insulation truck fire

September 30th, 2015 – Trench Rescue

October 14th, 2015 – Daycare evacuation CO Leak

October 30th, 2015 – Water Rescue Sheyenne River

November 20th, 2015 – RV Fire RRVF lot

December 29th, 2015 – Harwood House Fire

